

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08493 01 OF 02 062226Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 069989

O 062125Z JUL 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5136

AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 8493

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: ABDUCTION OF COLONEL MORGAN

REF: A. BEIRUT 8489

B. BEIRUT 8490

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF TWO TAPES MENTIONED IN REFTELS:

1. QUOTE MY NAME IS ERNEST ROLAND MORGAN, SERIAL NO. 225389199, COLONEL, U.S. ARMY, PRESENTLY ASSIGNED CHIEF PLANS, PROGRAMS, ARMY SECTION, JOINT U.S. MILITARY MISSION FOR AID TO TURKEY, ANKARA, TURKEY; I AM PRESENTLY IN BEIRUT BEING DETAINED BY A LEFTIST GROUP. I HAVE BEEN UNDER THEIR CONTROL SINCE LAST SUNDAY ABOUT 8:00 O'CLOCK AFTER I HAD PICKED UP SOME MATERIAL FROM THE AIRPORT AND WAS PICKED UP ABOUT A HALF MILE FROM THE AIRPORT NEAR A ROAD-BLOCK ESTABLISHED BY THE GROUP AS I WAS ON MY WAY BACK TO THE HOTEL. I AM STILL ALIVE NATURALLY AS YOU CAN GATHER FROM MY VOICE HERE. IT IS NOW ABOUT 8:00 O'CLOCK ON JULY 4. I AM IN GOOD HEALTH. I HAVE BEEN WELL TREATED. I HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO ANY PHYSICAL ABUSE, ANY HARASSMENT, ANY HARM, OR HAVE I BEEN THREATENED IN ANY WAY. THEREFORE, I THINK THERE IS NO GREAT NECESSITY FOR ANY WORRY THAT AT THIS TIME THAT I SHOULD NOT BE RELEASED. HOWEVER, THIS LEFTIST GROUP WILL MAKE DEMANDS AND WILL ASK

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08493 01 OF 02 062226Z

FOR AN AGREEMENT AS CONDITIONS FOR MY RELEASE. SINCE I HAVE

BEEN HERE AND UNDER THEIR CONTROL, I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THEIR SERIOUSNESS OF PURPOSE, AND THEIR OBJECTIVES. AND, I DO BELIEVE THAT THEIR DEMANDS ARE BEING MADE IN THIS VEIN. THEY HAVE INDICATED TO ME THAT MY RELEASE WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON THE MANNER THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CARRIES OUT THE TERMS OF THEIR DEMANDS AND THESE TERMS WILL BE MADE KNOWN LATER. MY ONLY REQUEST TO THE GOVERNMENT IS THAT THEY CONSIDER THE DEMANDS SERIOUS AND THAT IF THEY SEE FIT TO CARRY THEM OUT THEY WOULD CARRY THEM OUT IN A PERFECT MANNER TO FACILITATE MY RELEASE AT AN EARLY POINT IN TIME. UNQUOTE.

2. SECOND TAPE: QUOTE HI, HONEY. TODAY IS THE 4TH OF JULY AND IT'S ABOUT 7:00 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING. I'M SAFE AND AS YOU CAN TELL FROM MY VOICE, I'M VERY MUCH ALIVE. OF COURSE, I MISS YOU VERY MUCH, AND I AM GLAD THAT THEY HAVE ALLOWED ME TO SEND ON A MESSAGE TO YOU THAT I AM SAFE BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THIS HAS WORRIED YOU QUITE A BIT. I HAVE BEEN UNDER THEIR CONTROL NOW SINCE LAST SUNDAY ABOUT 7:30. I DON'T KNOW WHOSE CONTROL I'M UNDER. I KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT I AM UNDER THE CONTROL OF ... WHICH FACTION I'M JUST NOT SURE OF. HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN WELL TREATED AND I HAVE MADE SOME VERY GOOD FRIENDS OVER THE PAST WEEK. THEY HAVE TREATED ME VERY, VERY WELL. I THINK PROBABLY THIS IS THE STRANGEST PRISONER CAPTIVE RELATIONSHIP IN HISTORY. THEY CONSIDER ME THEIR PRISONER AND THEY CONSIDER ME AS PART OF THE U.S. TO BE AT WAR AGAINST THEM. HOWEVER, THEY ACCEPT ME AS FRIEND ON THE LEVEL OF BEING BLACK BUT AS I SAID THEY TAKE ME AS THEIR ENEMY BECAUSE I AM SERVING IN THE U.S. ARMY AS A COLONEL. ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY SAY, I HAVE A TOUGH TIME RECONCILING THIS IN MY MIND SINCE AS YOU KNOW I DIDN'T COME HERE EXCEPT FOR TO PASS THROUGH AND CAME IN PEACE. I'VE TOLD THESE MY CAPTORS THIS, AND I THINK THEY UNDERSTAND IT BUT THEY HAVE THEIR OWN MOTIVES AND PURPOSES SO THEY HAVE TREATED ME GOOD AND WE'LL SEE IT THROUGH. BE SURE TO SAY HELLO TO BYRON. I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT YOU WERE CONTACTED BY SOMEONE OUT OF WASHINGTON. THEY HAVE ALSO LET ME KNOW WHAT HAS BEEN IN THE NEWSPAPERS CONCERNING MY SITUATION HERE, AND SO I THINK PROBABLY THIS TAPE WILL HELP YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM ALIVE AND I THINK THAT'S VERY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08493 01 OF 02 062226Z

IMPORTANT TO YOUR WELL BEING AND I THINK I WILL BE RELEASED VERY SOON. OF COURSE THIS IS GOING TO ALTER OUR LIVES QUITE A BIT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT FASHION BUT THINGS WILL NOT BE AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST NOT BETWEEN YOU AND I BUT CERTAINLY BETWEEN MY JOB AND I GUESS WHAT I'LL DO IN THE FUTURE BUT NOTHING IS CHANGED BETWEEN YOU AND I. PROBABLY THIS WILL STRENGTHEN OUR LOVE. I DON'T KNOW HOW BECAUSE WE LOVE EACH OTHER SO MUCH ALREADY AND THEY ARE

ALLOWING ME TO TAPE THIS AND THEY SAID THAT THEY WOULD SEND  
THE TAPE ON TO MOTHER. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAVE HEARD FROM  
HER OR NOT, BUT ONE OF THE PAPERS CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH  
HER AND THEY INDICATED THAT AT THE TIME SHE WAS TOLD THAT I  
HAD BEEN I HAD DISAPPEARED HERE THAT SHE WAS PRAYING THAT  
I WOULD BE RELEASED. SO, I WILL SAY A FEW WORDS TO HER TO ENCOURAGE  
HER THAT TO HAVE STRENGTH WHICH I KNOW THAT SHE HAS AND I THINK HER  
PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED. SO, GIVE EVERYBODY MY BEST IN  
ANKARA AND I'M SURE THEY WILL ALL PRAY FOR ME AND I THINK IT  
WILL ALL COME OUT OK. I DON'T WANT TO GIVE YOU ANY TIME  
AS TO WHEN I'LL BE RELEASED WHETHER IT WILL BE SOON  
OR IN THE DISTANT FUTURE OR ANYTHING BUT I THINK THAT  
AS LONG AS YOU KNOW THAT I AM ALIVE WHENEVER THEY  
RELEASE ME I'LL COME STRAIGHT TO YOU. ...  
HELLO, MOTHER, SHAWN, HARRY, AND EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY,  
I'M BEING ALLOWED TO TAPE A MESSAGE TO YOU. I'VE  
JUST FINISHED A MESSAGE TO MARGARET AND BYRON LETTING  
THEM KNOW THAT I AM SAFE. AND WELL, AND HEALTHY, AND BEING WELL  
TREATED. TODAY IS THE 4TH OF JULY, IT'S ABOUT 7:30. I  
HAVE BEEN UNDER THE CONTROL ... 7:30 THEY HAVE TREATED ME  
EXTREMELY WELL. I HAVE NOT BEEN SUBJECTED TO ANY TYPE  
OF PUNISHMENT OR HARASSMENT OR PHYSICAL ABUSE. HOWEVER, I  
HAVE BEEN DETAINED AND THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I DID NOT  
EXPECT BUT SO BE IT. THEY HAVE INFORMED ME OF THE  
SITUATION AS IT HAS DEVELOPED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AND THEY  
ALSO TOLD ME THAT DURING AN INTERVIEW AT THE TIME THAT YOU  
WERE INFORMED THAT I HAD DISAPPEARED HERE IN BEIRUT THAT  
YOU OFFERED A PRAYER FOR MY SAFE RETURN. WELL, I THINK  
THAT PRAYER WILL BE ANSWERED. I DON'T KNOW WHEN. I DON'T  
HAVE ANY FEAR FOR MY LIFE OR MY PHYSICAL BEING. I  
THINK EVENTUALLY THEY WILL RELEASE ME. THERE WAS ONE LITTLE  
EPISODE THAT CAME ABOUT DURING THE TIME THAT THEY WERE

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08493 02 OF 02 062240Z

67

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 070016

O 062125Z JUL 75 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5137

AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 8493

EXDIS

PROCESSING ME AND INTERROGATING ME WHEN THEY FIRST  
PICKED ME UP. IF YOU WILL REMEMBER, BEFORE I WENT TO VIET NAM  
YOU GAVE ME A GOOD LUCK PIECE AND YOU TOLD ME TO PUT IN MY WALLET  
AND THAT IT WOULD SEE ME THROUGH VIET NAM AND KEEP ME OUT OF  
THE HANDS OF MY ENEMIES. AND, AS YOU KNOW, I DID COME  
BACK SAFELY FROM VIET NAM WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS, BUT  
APPARENTLY IT DIDN'T WORK HERE, ALTHOUGH I DON'T CONSIDER  
MYSELF IN THE HANDS OF AN ENEMY, ALTHOUGH THEY CONSIDER  
ME THEIR ENEMY. BUT IN ANY CASE, AS YOU KNOW, I NEVER KNEW WHAT WAS  
IN THAT GOOD LUCK PIECE THAT YOU GAVE ME. AS THEY WENT  
THROUGH SEARCHING MY WALLET AND ALL THE PERSONAL BELONGINGS  
I HAD ON ME AT THE TIME THAT THEY PICKED ME UP THEY FOUND  
THIS ITEM AND THEY OPENED IT AND IT WAS RED WRITING ON  
PAPER. I HAD NEVER READ IT AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS ON IT,  
APPARENTLY THEY CONSIDERED IT A MESSAGE OR A CODE OR SOME-  
THING SO I WAS EXTENSIVELY QUESTIONED ABOUT THAT ITEM SO  
IT SAW ME THROUGH VIET NAM BUT IT CAUSED ME SOME  
QUICK MOMENTS OVER HERE SINCE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS IN IT, AND  
I EXPLAINED TO THEM WHAT IT WAS ABOUT AND THEY HAVE  
ACCEPTED THAT EXPLANATION. BUT, I THINK YOUR PRAYERS WILL  
BE ANSWERED SO GIVE MY BEST TO EVERYONE--TO OWEN, TO DEBBIE,  
THEN MICHELE. PLEASE LET THEM KNOW THAT I AM SAFE AND  
DOING WELL. GIVE MY LOVE TO THEM. THEY KNOW I LOVE  
THEM AND I HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH  
HERE IN THE LST WEEK SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE AND I KNOW  
I'VE CAUSED YOU A LOT OF SUFFERING PARTICULARLY BECAUSE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08493 02 OF 02 062240Z

YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER I WAS DEAD OR ALIVE, BUT KNOW  
THAT YOU KNOW THAT I AM ALIVE I WANT YOU TO BE STRONG AND  
REALIZE THAT THESE THINGS HAPPEN IN LIFE AND I HAVE LEARNED  
A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT AND HAVE MADE SOME VERY STRONG FRIENDS  
HERE EVEN THOUGH I HAVE LOST MY FREEDOM TEMPORARILY. I  
DON'T KNOW IF DEBBIE AND ROLAND WILL STILL VISIT ME IN  
AUGUST. IF I REMAIN IN ANKARA, PROBABLY WE WILL GO ON AS  
WE HAD PLANNED THINGS, BUT I DON'T THINK I WILL REMAIN IN  
ANKARA. PROBABLY I WILL BE REASSIGNED BACK TO THE STATES  
OR SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW YET BUT WE WILL SEE WHEN IT COMES ABOUT  
ANYWAY, BE SURE AND TELL THEM THAT I AM OK. AND AGAIN I LOVE  
THEM AND I LOVE YOU AND I WANT YOU TO BE STRONG NOW.  
YOU ARE GETTING ON IN AGE AND THAT YOUR HEALTH IS NOT  
THE BEST IN THE WORLD AND THESE TYPES OF THINGS NEVER  
HELP. GIVE MY BEST TO UNK AND ALL THE REST OF THE FAMILY  
AND BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR CHIN UP AND KEEP PRAYING AND I'LL  
MAKE OUT OK. YOUR SON, ERNEST. UNQUOTE.

3. POINTS AT WHICH HE ATTEMPTED TO IDENTIFY HIS CAPTORS WERE  
OBVIOUSLY ERASED.  
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOCIALISM, KIDNAPPING, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT08493  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750233-0379  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750782/aaaacuyy.tel  
**Line Count:** 227  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 BEIRUT 8489  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ABDUCTION OF COLONEL MORGAN  
**TAGS:** PINS, CASC, US, LE, (MORGAN, ERNEST R)  
**To:** STATE USCINCEUR  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006